

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013**

***Present: Selectmen: Tom Hayward and, Michael Woodworth. Others include: Clay Mitchell, Steve Shope, Bob Elliott, Kent Lawrence, Betsy Coes, Jamie Thompson and John Hayden.***

***Call to order at 6:45 pm.***

The Selectmen reviewed and signed:

- Checks

The Selectmen met with Clay Mitchell to discuss the resignation of John Gajewski and the process of appointing the next Selectmen. The Board agreed to post the opening on the marquee and web site, accept letters of interest and then interview perspective candidates at next weeks meeting, Tues., April 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Board interviewed the following interested citizens seeking positions on:

- Conservation Commission – Steve Shope  
Steve has served 3 (3 year) terms and became Chairman by default when Ray Konisky resigned. Some major changes during this time were the agreement with the town that all current use fees would be retained in the General Fund instead of the voted 50% to the Conservation Commission prior to the acquisition of the Piscassic Greenway Bond (2007-2026) and the easement monitoring is now being done by Ellen Snyder, IBIS, with town appropriations. The budget has a \$70,000. balance to date (\$45,000. was used to purchase the Case Property- Dec. 2011). The commission is not very busy due to less building being done in town. Steve feels the trail system is a recreational priority and would be interested in attending the Summit meetings.
- Zoning Board of Adjustment – Bob Elliott  
Bob would like to be involved in the ZBA because he would be participating in the local government. He feels this is important and critical from his observations at the meetings. Bob is a Consultant with the ability to work with people and feels he can be objective and neutral in difficult and emotional situations with upset people. His prior experience, as a volunteer with ESGR Board, helped returning soldiers with their rights and their employer. Bob felt the Summit meetings were a great idea. Since Bob has a personal hearing before the ZBA in March, he would have to recuse himself, if appointed, for that meeting.

- Zoning Board of Adjustment – Kent Lawrence  
Kent has served on the ZBA for over 10 years and sees it as a civic duty to help the Town continue. He feels his strengths are the history of the Town, the interpretation of rules and having the exceptions go through the process. A person should be open-minded where as people with an agenda would not be good candidates since it can get personal and be part of the consideration. Kent felt personally the ZBA should not be involved in policy making decisions for the Town but would attend the Summit meetings, if his time permits. Kent has concerns over the broader picture of the last case which allows for interpretation that could be troublesome.
- Zoning Board of Adjustment - Betsy Coes  
Betsy stated that she has always been interested in the ZBA and this is the only board she hasn't been on. She was a Selectman for 18 years which is a huge benefit because the experience gives you a very different perspective. Having a strong understanding of what the ZBA does, Betsy feels she can deal with people with preconceived notions and would be able to reach a compromise. Interpretation is the main issue along with not bending the rules. Betsy would be interested in the Summit meetings to get an idea of where we want to see the Town go and felt the prior Summit meetings of 15 years ago died out and fragmented due to the building of the subdivisions which created many changes. Betsy stated that as being a member of the ZBA, she could be fair and give considerations to every person who comes in with an issue.
- Planning Board – Jamie Thompson  
Jamie felt his strengths would be that he is pro business and has experience with projects and design to prevent bad development from happening. The role of the Planning Board should be to do its best to meet the zoning and objectives of the Town. Zoning maps provide what the Town should look like and as a member, he considers himself a reasonable person to protect the Town's interests. The commercial development along Route 108 is the gateway to the town which is zoned commercial and can be developed without destroying the character of the town. Jamie stated good growth and management is a positive for the town, as well as, the consideration of budgetary issues.
- Planning Board – John Hayden  
John stated the strengths he brings to the Planning Board are his ability to communicate with people, listen to all who are involved, discuss topics and make an informed decision, as well as, his past experience which is helpful to be fair and listen. He feels the role of the Planning Board is to administer the rules and zoning ordinances of the Town, insure the development of the community is in accordance with the rules and regulations, review the information fairly and make it work within how the Town has been created.

John stated he has no opinion on the expansion of Route 108. So far, the projects we have worked with have been completed and done properly. As far as budgetary issues are concerned, the Planning Board wants to create a capital improvement plan, with a goal to set monies aside to keep monies level, but it has since died off. Also, the Planning Board should be involved in some of these issues to look at things, such as the police dept. John noted that we haven't ended up like Stratham or Epping with large retail districts which change the community drastically. Newfields has balanced the commercial / residential issues due to a good job of moving ahead by being responsible. With 15 years experience, John feels he has a lot of experience to offer as a member of the Planning Board and does not wish to be involved in a Selectman position at this time. John did not wish to comment on his appeal with the ZBA at this time. As far as being impartial, he does not find it hard to be impartial and his comments were not ones that were punitive or derogatory and he wished that they were taken as being helpful. John stated that there are a lot of issues with regard to the water and sewer extension which have not been brought out and the reason why the extension is necessary, because of the water quality at the site, rather than helping the Town. Also, his relationship may have affected those he was working with on the PB, ZBA or BOS because of the tension which made it hard to communicate but it did not affect his ability. In that regard, he has spoken with some of the people to help clear the air about misinformation.

No discrepancies were noted during the signing of the checks.

At 9:15pm, Michael made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna C. Newman  
Deputy Town Clerk